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SABOTAGE AND TERRORISM COMMITTED
BY CP'S OF THE FREE WORLD

INTRODUCTION

The unique feature of sabotage, terrorism and other types of aggressive action undertaken by all Moscow-oriented CP's is the subservience of this action to the political line or tactic of the CP of the Soviet Union (CPSU). In turn the CPSU provides varying amounts of moral and/or material support for such action.

Most CP's have place in their organizational structures for units to organize, direct and execute sabotage action. At the highest Party levels it is usually either the Central Committee itself, a Committee serving as a "front" for the Central Committee, or a Military Affairs Committee which has ultimate responsibility for directing campaigns of aggression. During strikes a central higher strike committee and local strike committees may direct violent action. To carry out the action there are usually militant action (or strong-arm) groups which have been known under a variety of titles.

Sabotage is committed for a variety of reasons: (a) to provide support for paramilitary action; (b) to support general strikes or "chain reaction" strikes; (c) to protest specific government actions, such as wage and price agreements or local ordinances; (d) to protest military agreements and economic aid programs; (e) to protest a foreign government's actions or installations; (f) to protest any action which shows the Soviet Union in an unfavorable light.

Targets are of either military or non-military nature; in the latter category are government installations, public utilities, transport, communications, roads and bridges, water supply systems, etc. Terrorist action is taken against "imperialist" representatives and local collaborating police or security forces; it is also taken against prominent or articulate non-Communists and Communist renegades.

Sabotage action is always appropriate in colonial areas in view of the fact that the CP must always act as the vanguard in leading

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people to liberation. For this reason, wherever there exists a national liberation movement, a CP will always work to "unify and coordinate" its actions and to gain eventual control over it.

The international Communist fronts and their affiliates have prominently figured in campaigns of aggression. The simultaneous dock workers strikes in several countries in the summer of 1949, for example, were organized largely by functionaries of the World Federation of Trade Unions. The International Union of Students apparently has been influential in instigating and guiding student strikes and demonstrations in some colonial areas. The role possibly being played by affiliates and individual lawyers connected with the International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) appears to be worthy of study in view of the number of lawyers who appear to figure in sabotage plans or action in Latin America.

National front organizations which have participated extensively in militant action programs have been the labor unions, the veterans organizations and the student fronts. Many of the strong-arm squads or militant action groups have been made up of Communists and sympathizers from the Communist-controlled trade unions or veterans groups.

Only in a few areas has there been evidence that local training of Communist party members for sabotage and terrorism was conducted. Evidence in the form of detailed instruction bulletins was found in Brazil during police raids of January 1956. In Indonesia training was received by Communists who served in the Communist-controlled Village Defense Organizations in Sumatra. In Finland and Chile there is evidence that some psychological preparation for eventual sabotage action had been attempted.

Only in the case of Greece is there evidence that many Party members received sabotage training in the Communist Bloc. Other evidence indicates that individual Party members from the West have been trained in Communist Bloc countries on a highly selective basis for eventual sabotage which they will execute for a professional Communist Bloc intelligence service. One leader from a Latin American CP is reported to have attended lectures on guerrilla warfare at a

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CPSU school in 1957. Communist parties have encouraged their members to enlist in national armed forces in order to acquire military training.

In several countries Communists are infiltrated into non-Communist organizations or government agencies where they commit terrorist action or sabotage as members of the organizations into which they have penetrated. Any sabotage action which the CP avowedly sponsors is likely to be strongly supported by disruptive Communist parliamentary tactics timed to coincide with the aggressive action. The Communist press will rationalize aggression as "self-defense", "struggle for the workers' (or the peoples') rights", etc., and in many instances will blame either local security authorities or the United States for provoking incidents or causing sabotage for which they, the Communists, are held responsible.

In view of the present Soviet tactic which in the main requires use of a united front, but with increased use of disciplined aggressiveness, in most areas the CP's will probably not resort to terrorist measures in the near future. In areas such as Indonesia and South Vietnam where disturbed political conditions exist, and Communist assets are somewhat greater (prevailing attitude of the government in Indonesia and direct support from the North in the case of South Vietnam), the threat of sabotage action is relatively greater. There is a possibility of more frequent Communist-inspired strike action in industrial areas where the CP's can exploit economic issues and where they have centers of strength.

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